

# CATERING TO THE MODERN WOMAN'S HAPPINESS

## A Critic Finds Flaws in the Recipe Propounded for Ellen Glasgow's Latest Heroine and Proposes Some Up-to-Date Amendments.

Ellen Glasgow's recipe in her "Gabriella," a modern woman with an old-fashioned theory, is "To love, and labor and to wait." Zona Gale says, "It's the joy of the job." Is the joy of the job always sufficient unto the evil thereof? W. L. George, in his "The Stranger's Wedding," says the fine art of life is to learn how to do without happiness! What do you think?

By Nancy Woods Walburn.

FOR a woman out in the cold bleak business world, do the old-fashioned virtues of bravery, self-sacrifice and patience have a way of getting rewarded in the good old-fashioned way by happiness? Not possessing these virtues, we know not, but in our humble opinion Ellen Glasgow, considering the way Gabriella went about it, took a lot on herself when she crowns Gabriella, she of the avowed quest for happiness, after ten years of poverty and loneliness, with happiness, a princely salary and a prince to boot.

It isn't the fact that she thus won out in the movie fashion that moves us to protest.

Rather the inconsistent attitude of the professional women, as depicted in Gabriella, concerning what constitutes happiness and how to gain it.

Deserted, alone, Gabriella drew strength to stick by her guns from an inborn faith that, cheated out of happiness temporarily by an unfortunate marriage, happiness nevertheless would be hers by a divine right in the future. Until then she pushed out of her life every study, friendship and interest, narrowed her life down to her job and her children absolutely, and for years lived so alone with her youngsters and a spinster housekeeper that she herself said that in seven years she hadn't seen a man save on the street.

Though intensely lonely and romantic, Ellen Glasgow triumphantly tells us that her happiness heroine preferred to dwell in the dreams of a love of her teens—which to revive was as much a part of her daily tasks as doing her hair—than to descend to the "common-place happiness" of a friendship with a man she greatly admired. (This in face of the fact, gentle reader, that Arthur, the man of her dreams, whom she gleefully turned down for her husband, slumbers at Richmond a few hours away, is unmarried, knows she is free, yet down through the years cometh not signaleth not!)

Of course, the antithesis of such action—if perchance your ambitions lie a la Gabriella—is to grab it in this year of 1916 A. D. (N. B. Inez Millholland Boissevain and he whom she argued into matrimony sat in front of us at "The Weavers" last week and appeared altogether happy apostles of this new method of weaving fates.)

But, joking aside, what is more apt to be the average professional woman's attitude toward happiness, whatever her individualistic interpretation of it may be, granted that she thinks about it at all?

Unlike Gabriella, who steadfastly closed her lips against it in small doses, sitting like Patience on a monument while she stakes all on the future, doesn't the modern woman learn to grub along the roadside for it, grateful for any stray nibbles which come her way?

Does she self-consciously strive for it as an ideal ever before her, or, deep in the "joy of her job," doesn't happiness often come to her as Jane Addams says our influence should



"There will be chafing dish parties in the girls' own sitting rooms."

—indirectly by the roadside of her chosen field of endeavor?

Or, in the event she is disappointed in her lifework and frankly confesses to herself that hers is the job of practicing "the fine art of doing without happiness," instead of banking on idealistic dreams, isn't she more apt to go out gunning for absorbing substitutes in outside work or play?

Any or all of these alternatives may miss the mark, but at least they seem more consistent than Gabriella's risky attitude. The mere fact that she was determined to see roses in all things in her life by no means should have developed in her such an utter lack of a "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may" philosophy. For her lonely evenings were not spent in study or work or anything else pertaining to her ambition to rise. (Yet that she did rise until her head almost popped above the printed page, from a \$1,500 saleswoman to the head of the great Fifth Avenue dressmaking house, Ellen Glasgow lets us doubt not one minute.)

Again, in our humble opinion, she whose philosophy is to hold her cup high and dry rather than to stop to sip a drop that chance drops into it or that she herself can gather is likely to be left high and dry.

No, it seems to us that the business woman, through being "captain of her soul," by now has learned, if she has learned anything at all, that if her clouds are to have a silver lining she has got to sew it in herself.

She has learned to be as business-like and cold-blooded about happiness and what kind of a life would spell it to her as anything else. Granted that giving happiness to yourself doesn't always pan out as anticipated and that most of us are forced to indulge in homeopathic doses, without dreams or ideals work or play would be sorry things. Dreams alone are dangerous things to bank upon. The reaction from them is likely to be dangerous. And the fact that Gabriella's panned out so beautifully, we still insist, was due to Ellen Glasgow rather than Gabriella. And most of us, alas, have no Ellen Glasgows!

## Young Women's Christian Association, Planning Socialized Apartments, Sounds Death Knell for Institutionalized Girls' Homes.

Miss Esther Packard, investigator for the Y. W. C. A., has recommended this new conception of the working girls' home to the Metropolitan Board, and with the money in hand from the campaign of 1914 plans are under way. The socialized apartment house is to have various kinds of suites, with and without kitchenettes, perhaps a cafeteria, though the operation of the house has not been discussed to any great degree.

There are those who grow weary of this "working girl stuff," who point triumphantly to the wallowing East Side and its healthy, dirty babies rolling around, and say complacently that if babies can thrive in any old condition so can grown-up girls; that energy spent in "uplift" is energy thrown to the winds, and finally that people left to themselves are happier than any others in the world. But the Y. W. C. A. proceeds on quite different theories. It takes into account, for example, the familiar assumption that moral and spiritual life can be swayed to a tremendous extent by physical well being, the same text that Bernard Shaw expounds in *Undershaft's* contention, "When the stomach is full the soul has time to hunger."

In fairness to the homes, however, it must be said that they have failed not on the side of physical adequacy so much as on their social and cultural side. Miss Packard insists strongly on this. Miss Packard, by the way, is rather much of a girl herself, and she takes the quiet, humorous view that the professional investigator is not always blessed with, of many situations.

"Even if the food is bad," she says, "the girls realize that they are not paying for much better, and accept it more cheerfully than they do other disadvantages. For example, the 10 o'clock rules seem to be most galling, even when girls are not in the habit of going out in the evenings. 'Supposing I wanted to!' they exclaim. I remember one forlorn little dressmaker who knew not one human in the city. She worked all day and lived in a lonely room by herself. Every night she went to her room and sat, all by herself. I begged her to go to an institutionalized home, where there would be other women and girls for her to associate with. 'Do you think I would be penned up like that?' she asked me, 'where I couldn't stay out after 10 if I wanted to?' This dreary little person possessing hankers to stay out after 10! Why, she was sound asleep by 9:30 every night. But she wanted to know she could go, if ever the chance turned up. So she just sits in her one room every night, happy, after a fashion, in her freedom."

Miss Packard found several actual story-book instances of the two-in-one cruel employer and the kindly benefactor, playing his double role to the same girls. There was one who paid his girls \$5 a week for eight hours of their waking time and then smiled on them from an oil painting on the wall as the "founder and chief support, my dears, of this lovely home for you."

"What's the idea, Kate?" asked one girl of her chum. "Old Bones is runnin' this place for us, and payin' us starvin' wages, huh?"

"Yes, 'n on Sat'dy nights it's his ice cream we're eatin' as a 'special treat.' Not fer me."

I always chuck it. I don't want Old Bones's charity, now, do I?"

"It is very often the feeling that they are being subsidized that worries a girl in an institutionalized home," explains Miss Packard. "She is earning her money, and she hates the thought that it isn't paying for what she gets." Only five out of fifty-four homes in New York are self-supporting, and it seems to be the matrons' universal idea that the girls must be reminded of their favors and benefits at every meal. Naturally this does not tend to make the girls feel entirely comfortable. Some of the homes we found more successful. In one the girls are devoted to the matron, and never fail to go to her room before bedtime to kiss her good night. Quite different is the home where dancing is not allowed, but where the matron announced that every Saturday night she played a Virginia reel and allowed the girls to skip for a while!

How thrilling it must be to skip a little while each Saturday night!



"She sits in her one rocker, happy in her freedom."

The Y. W. C. A. has found in this investigation that neither homes nor furnished rooms are the solution for the working girls' living problems. Every one hopes the socialized apartment will be the solution, for the working girl is a pretty important little cog in the daily grind, and her problems, strange to say, may affect her efficiency. But, more than that, she is also a pretty fine specimen, as this world's people go, in her brave bluffing of hard luck, in her penny-a-week fashions, in her sacrifices and struggles, her cheap amusements and 15-cent lunches. And when one thinks of what she might have if she had only been born on Fifth Avenue a grudge can scarcely be harbored at the idea of giving her a little apartment to herself, with a place to cook when the working day is over.

## ∴ The Truth About the U. S. Navy ∴

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pointed on the Delaware in 1914 stated that the complement of officers necessary was 54. "The shortage of enlisted men," Admiral Fletcher adds, "like that of officers, exists in all types of ships of the fleet. During the year the department reduced the allowed complement of destroyers approximately 25 per cent, and these important vessels are now operating with reduced complements."

"It is evident that undermanned and under-officed ships cannot be kept in a state of preparedness and efficiency to meet on equal terms similar types in other navies."

### FAVORS RECRUITING NOW.

Admiral Fletcher declares also that it "takes longer to make a sailor than to make a battleship," and believes that the United States ought immediately to begin the enlistment of men not only for the vacancies that now exist, but for the ships under construction.

His figures are therefore in complete agreement with the estimates of Assistant Secretary Roosevelt and substantially in accord with the recommendations of the general board, which declared in its last annual report that "with full war complements for all ships ready for service in 1917 and a minimum number required at shore stations 74,700 men will be needed. For peace requirements in the fiscal year 1917 the general board regards as inadequate any smaller force than 67,000 men in the regular navy."

Secretary Daniels reduced this recommendation to an increase of 7,500 men, 2,500 apprentice seamen and 1,500 marines, which he regards as sufficient under his policy of withdrawing two-thirds of the crew from ships undergoing repairs and utilizing them on other ships. This practice is regarded among experts as particularly inadvisable, as it not only fails to provide full crews for all the vessels, but destroys the esprit de corps of the various crews.

The situation as regards submarines is even worse than with respect to battle units. Recent testimony before the committees of Congress shows that of the seventeen submarines supposedly in full commission on the Atlantic coast, not including five antiquated submarines at the Panama Canal, there have practically never been more than four or five ready for service at one time. In other words, the efficiency of American submarines is considerably lower than 30 per cent.

All the submarines built, building or authorized are of the small coast defense type except three so-called fleet submarines, which are designed to have a speed of twenty knots

and to be able to put to sea with the fleet. The Schley, the first of these 1,500-ton boats, was authorized in June, 1914, more than a year and a half ago, and work on it has not yet commenced. Two more of the same type were authorized nearly a year ago, and the contracts have just been awarded.

### MAY NOT BE PRACTICAL.

These are the largest submarines in the world—about twice as large as those used by Germany. It is estimated that they will have a cruising radius practically equal to that of a battleship. But they are only experimental, and naval experts have not yet determined what their use would be in case of war.

In comparing the American naval strength with that of foreign nations it has been assumed that the units in the different navies are, type for type, of equal fighting force. This assumption, of course, is not accurate. Ships of the same general design differ in power in different navies and even in the same navy.

In a general way naval experts agree that comparisons, in time of peace, of skill and effectiveness are futile. It is believed that such differences as exist between the gunnery, for example, of the American navy and that of possible adversaries is negligible for purposes of comparison. In one respect, as already pointed out, American ships are at a disadvantage—the fact that they are under-officed and undermanned.

The efficiency of the American navy can be gauged roughly in two ways—by reference to target practice records and by the results of war games and strategical maneuvers. The Navy Department does not publish complete reports of either of these operations.

The report of Admiral Fletcher to Secretary Daniels, however, may be taken as an index to the efficiency of the fleet. Admiral Fletcher is recognized as one of the greatest of the "practical" officers in the navy, and has shown a tireless interest in improving the efficiency of the navy and particularly of his own command, the Atlantic fleet.

It is known that at the time of the Spanish-American War the gunnery aboard American ships had reached a maximum of accuracy. After that it declined over a period of many years, according to the best information obtainable, and it was not until recently that it began to show an upward tendency.

Successfully carried out with the exception of the movements of the submarines, and the results reflect credit on the personnel and material of the fleet."

Apparently, then, the American navy is on a par in efficiency, except in numbers of officers and men, with other navies, except for submarines, which have never been successful.

The war game last fall, in which an attacking fleet composed largely of "constructive" or imaginary units succeeded in breaking through the defending fleet and making a constructive landing on the coast, has developed a controversy in the navy over a question of strategy. Admiral Fletcher, who commanded the attacking force, is inclined to believe that if Admiral Knight, his adversary, had kept his fleet together instead of dividing it, the landing would have been more difficult, if not actually impossible. Admiral Knight asserts the contrary and maintains that he did the best he could with an insufficient force.

But the navy is to be increased. If Secretary Daniels's programme is carried out we will have, according to the estimates of the General Board, the following principal units in 1925:

Battle-dreadnaughts	27
Battle-cruisers	6
Pre-dreadnaughts	35
Scout cruisers	13
Fleet submarines	18
Coast submarines	157

If we had all those ships to-day the situation would be greatly changed. But is there any ground for the belief that in 1925 we shall have made an appreciable advance on our potential enemies? It is not enough to build ships; it would be better to build none at all than to build more slowly than those whom we are aiming to excel.

Coincident with embarkation on a programme that will leave us where we are now at the end of nine years, this government is taking on its shoulders new responsibilities in this hemisphere. The new Pan-Americanism makes the United States not only the guardian of its own interests, as intended by the Monroe Doctrine, but also the protector of the interests of every other American republic. In other words, the United States is entering into a defensive alliance with twenty other nations and is furnishing alone the great bulk of the defensive strength.

For these reasons, as well as for the mere defence of our soil and our shipping, it is necessary that the United States have a navy capable of controlling the seas surrounding all the Americas against the aggression of any probable combination of enemies.

## \* Are Women People? \*

By ALICE DUER MILLER

### WHERE'S THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY.

"The programme of the anti-suffrage meeting for February was on the subject of 'Feminism, the Abolition of Modern Times.' Avoiced sentiments of leading suffragists in favor of abolition of the institution of marriage, in favor of the disintegration of the home, in favor of a single standard of morals, or rather in favor of no restriction upon either sex, was abundantly testified to by written statements from such leaders. Articles were read on this and kindred subjects."—Macon Telegraph, Feb. 15, 1916.)

The things no lady talks about—  
At least no lady should—  
May be exhaustively discussed  
For everybody's good.  
If you will thus begin your speech:  
"Oh, ladies, how I grieve  
To dwell upon the shocking things  
That suffragists believe."

Whereas it might have made a comparatively tame meeting to read articles on the resolution passed last December by the National American Woman's Suffrage Association:

That we believe the home is the foundation of the state; we believe in the sanctity of the marriage relation; and furthermore, we believe that woman's ballot will strengthen the power of the home and sustain the dignity and sacredness of marriage.

### COURAGE OF A SORT.

Bishop Rowe, in "The Spirit of Missions" for February, describes the founding of a new mission within the Arctic Circle, in order to preach the gospel to the Kobuks and the Koyukuks. "As a beginning," he says, "two log cabins were built at Allaket. Miss C. M. Carter has accepted this forlorn post of duty. . . . I had hoped that the heroic missionary spirit in some man of the Church on hearing my plea for a man for this place would have cried out: 'Lo, here am I; send me.' But it has been vain so far. As one witnesses the willingness of women to volunteer for work no matter how far away and forbidding, at the call of the Church, and the silence of men to such calls, one cannot but think of Mrs. Browning's lines:

"The world's male chivalry has perished out:  
But women are knight-errants to the last."

And yet some people, like Mr. Taft, when called upon to comment on the fact that only 5 per cent of criminals are women, explains that women lack the physical courage to break the law.

### DEATH OF CHIVALRY GROSSLY EXAGGERATED.

In commenting on the fact that President Wilson kept a delegation of Kansas women waiting twenty minutes in the cold, "The Hutchinson News" remarks editorially:

"All that was the matter was that President Wilson and Secretary Tumulty treated the delegation as they had been accustomed to treat delegations of women in the East, and not as delegations of Kansas women are accustomed to being treated."

### PAPERS OF CALIFORNIA, ILLINOIS, ETC., PLEASE COPY.

"The Republican party," said Mr. Root the other evening (and who is better fitted to speak for it?), "is composed entirely of men"—Well, ladies, shall we make it so?

### A BLOCKADE OF PEDESTALS.

In one of the Southern legislatures, we are told, there is a statesman who opposed Woman Suffrage on the ground that women must remain on their pedestals.

He is now opposing the admission of women to the state university on the ground that their presence would "defile those sacred precincts."

### THE PROPER TIME.

"(The Susan B. Anthony constitutional amendment, urged with such good judgment, moderation and timeliness [we think this is intended sarcastically]) . . . 'When trivial policies like preparedness, international relations, the raising of revenue are permitted to engross the attention of the country' . . . [this is sarcastic, too]. —Editorial, New York Times, Feb. 17, 1916.)

When every nation is at peace,  
And every government is stable,  
When party disagreements cease,  
And statesmen all are wise and able,  
When the millennium is in sight,  
Or seems, at least, not too remote,  
Then only women might be right  
To ask the vote.

Imagine any educated adult citizen wanting to be consulted before such trivial policies as preparedness, international relations and the raising of revenue were settled for him—or her!

The argument seems to be that the more important the issues before the country the less a citizen should want to vote.